

EXHIBIT C

TITLE III

REVENUE AND FINANCE

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Chapter 3.40

Island County Public Benefit Open Space Rating System

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3.40.250 High Priority Open Space Resources

A. Resource and Rural Agricultural Lands

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E. Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, Species and Habitats of Local Importance, Category A and B Wetlands and Special Plant Sites

1. Definitions

- a) **Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.** Those areas identified as being of critical importance to the maintenance of fish and wildlife species including areas with which endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association; habitats and species of local importance; streams; commercial and recreational shellfish areas; kelp and eelgrass beds; herring and smelt spawning areas; state natural area preserves, and state natural resource conservation; or
- b) **Species and Habitats of Local Importance**
 - (i) Those areas containing vascular plant species as identified and listed in the Natural Heritage Program as being either endangered, threatened, or sensitive and areas identified in the Natural Heritage Program as high quality ecosystems.
 - (ii) Those areas or species designated as Species or Habitats of Local Importance set forth in Chapter 17.02B ICC.

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3. Eligibility

- a) Areas which have a primary association with federally- or state-listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive species of fish or wildlife, and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term. A Habitat Management Plan shall be submitted which

identifies the area to be protected and appropriate mitigation, management and/or protection strategies that will be employed.

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- c) Streams, provided that the stream buffer is at least twice the size of that required under Chapter 17.02B ICC. Buffer averaging shall not be utilized;
- d) Commercial and recreational shellfish areas, provided that the fish and wildlife habitat conservation area buffer is at least twice the size of the largest applicable buffer required under Chapters 17.02 or 17.02B ICC. Buffer averaging shall not be utilized;
- e) Kelp and eelgrass beds; herring and smelt spawning areas, provided that the fish and wildlife habitat conservation area buffer is at least twice the size of the largest applicable buffer required under Chapters 17.02 or 17.02B ICC. Buffer averaging shall not be utilized;
- f) State natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas;
- g) Sites listed in the Natural Heritage database as containing endangered, threatened, or sensitive vascular plant species or high quality ecosystems, or which are verified by an expert in the field as containing the same plants or communities and which are acceptable by the state agency for addition to the database. A Habitat Management Plan shall be submitted which identifies the area to be protected and appropriate mitigation, management and/or protection strategies that will be employed; and
- h) Eligible sites are those wetlands classified Category “A” or “B” by Chapter 17.02A ICC or Category “A” by Chapter 17.02 ICC.

Items a) through h) listed above require protection through easements, or voluntary buffers in those cases where buffers are not established through Chapter 17.02A or 17.02B ICC and, in certain cases, shall require preparation and submittal of a Biological Site Assessment or Habitat Management Plan. The BSA or HMP shall provide a description of the fish and wildlife habitat conservation area, the location of the protected features, the location of buffers and a description of efforts to protect the fish and wildlife habitat conservation area, or a description of restoration efforts in those instances where the critical area has been damaged.